

MINUTES
WALKERSVILLE BURGESS & COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING
May 12, 2021

The Town meeting of the Walkersville Burgess & Commissioners was called to order on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. Those in attendance included Burgess Chad Weddle, Commissioners Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, Tom Gilbert, John Zimmerman, and Michael Bailey, Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver, Communications Specialist Samantha Fowle, Public Works Director Joseph Birch, Assistant Public Works Director Ryan Knott, Town Manager Sean Williams, and a total of four citizens. Commissioner Michael McNiesh joined the meeting via phone. The meeting was also streamed on Facebook Live.

The meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer.

1. MINUTES

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tom Gilbert to approve the Town meeting minutes with corrections of April 28, 2021. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Michael Bailey to approve the Closed meeting minutes from April 28, 2021. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

2. PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE 2021-02 – SENIOR TAX CREDIT

Commissioner Tom Gilbert summarized the proposed senior tax credit and explained how Walkersville residents would potentially qualify for the benefit. There were no public comments made.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie Ennis made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Michael Bailey to adopt Ordinance 2021-02. There was no discussion. The motion passed 4-0.

3. POOL DISCHARGE INFORMATION, MS4 – RYAN KNOTT

Assistant Public Works Director Ryan Knott discussed the recent results of the MDE report received regarding the annual MS4 report. Assistant Director Knott also explained the importance of pool owners in Walkersville to properly discharge water in the best location and by making sure to first dechlorinate it before properly discharging it. Public Works will also be cleaning all inlets over the coming months.

4. FREDERICK AND PENNSYLVANIA LINE RR TRAIL REQUEST

Walkersville received a request for support for the Frederick and Pennsylvania Line Rail Road Trail. Frederick County is attempting to obtain two grants to assist with the building of the trail.

Commissioner Michael Bailey made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis to provide two letters of support. There was no discussion. The motion passed 4-0.

5. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE 2021-03 – GENERAL FUND BUDGET

Burgess Weddle introduced Ordinance 2021-03 for the General Fund Budget, explaining that a workshop was held earlier in the week. The total estimated revenue is \$5,102,818 with \$1,346,880 being spent from surplus to meet total expenditures. This budget is based on the current tax rate.

Commissioner Michael Bailey made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tom Gilbert to introduce Ordinance 2021-03 – General Budget Fund. There was no discussion. The motion passes 4-0.

6. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE 2021-04 – WATER FUND BUDGET

Burgess Weddle introduced Ordinance 2021-04 for the Water Fund Budget, explaining the Water Fund is a proprietary fund unlike the General Fund. With the development of the new water plant, there are greater costs for treatment fees from Frederick County. The total anticipated revenue is \$1,593,000. The American Recue Plan funds are anticipated to be received soon and should assist towards Water Fund projects.

Commissioner Tom Gilbert made a motion, seconded by Commissioner John Zimmerman to introduce Ordinance 2021-04 – Water Budget. Commissioner Michael Bailey asked if the Water Fund Budget needed to be balanced. Burgess Weddle Advised it does not and Commissioner Bailey explained there is a negative balance to any citizen that look at the proposed budget. The motion passed 4-0.

7. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Commissioner Tom Gilbert made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Michael Bailey to pay the bills submitted for the time period. The motion passed 4-0.

8. CHAD UPDATES, STAFF COMMENTS

Public Works Director Joe Birch advised the walking paths at Heritage have been delayed because of rain, but work has resumed. The shorter path will be completed by next week and the longer path will begin shortly thereafter.

The insert valves on MD 194 will take approximately two weeks and will be started the Week of June 14th.

The old Public Works Director office was converted in to a locker room at Public Works.

In June or July, Town wide hydrant flushing will occur. Citizens will be notified of the schedule.

Commissioner John Zimmerman inquired about a water leak on Pennsylvania Avenue. Dir. Birch advised the water line will need to be replaced in the near future.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver thanked all those that attended the Planning meeting the previous night. The next few Planning Meetings will be heavily focused on working on the Comprehensive Plan.

Town Manager Sean Williams advised the survey of the Water Shed is being worked on and will hopefully be completed in the near future.

Manager Williams advised one of the game quality lacrosse nets was removed from Heritage Park. If you have any information on the theft, please contact Town Hall.

Manager Williams thanked Town citizen Jonathan Newman for safely removing and relocating a swarm of honey bees from Town Hall earlier in the day.

Burgess Chad Weddle advised Governor Hogan relaxed mask restrictions some indoor activities and most outdoor activities.

Burgess Weddle advised the Carnival will take place the week of July 5th with fireworks on Friday the 9th. Help is still needed by volunteers for serving food between 4 p.m. and 10 p.m. Anyone interested in assisting can email carnivalhelp@yahoo.com.

Burgess Weddle advised the Town received numerous Election Supervisor requests and a determination will be made and publicized at the next meeting.

9. COMMISSIONER CONCERNS

Commissioner Michael Bailey inquired about the possibility of a summer concert in front of the renovated Barn at Heritage Park. He inquired about potentially having electricity run to that location.

Commissioner Bailey advised the previously discussed vacant property ordinance be forwarded to the Planning Commission for review.

Commissioner Bailey discussed recreating the Economic Development Committee and reviewed the updated proposed Ordinance. Several changes included but were not limited to updated qualifications for

holding membership, providing the commission with a staff employee to assist, and requiring an annual report.

Commissioner Michael Bailey made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis to introduce Ordinance 2021-05 for development of an Economic Development Commission. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

Commissioner Bailey provided a proposed revision of the current code regarding dangerous sidewalks. A public/private cost sharing (50/50) partnership was included with exceptions for ADA complaint corners. Additionally, waivers are made available to citizens to provide evidence that damage to the sidewalk is due to neglect of the Town managed infrastructure. Commissioner Bailey requested review and feedback for later discussion. Commissioner Tom Gilbert, Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis and Michael McNiesh all felt the ADA ramps should be paid for by the Town if they need to be replaced.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis thanked Susan Hauver for the presentation at the Planning Meeting along with the feedback from the citizens that attended.

Commissioner Brodie-Ennis thanked public works for the recent water leak on Challedon Drive.

Commissioner Brodie -Ennis thanked Public Works Director Birch and Manager Williams for their work on the budget.

Burgess Weddle thanked everyone that participated for the dedication of the Whitmore-Zimmerman Building at Heritage Park.

Burgess Weddle warned everyone to please be careful this Saturday at Walkersville Days.

May 22nd will have both Shred Day and a Senior Parade with fireworks occurring.

Commissioner Michael Bailey also thanked the Veterans Committee for their work on the Aria Memorial Service.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS / WATERSHED UPDATE

Paul Kovalcik, former Walkersville resident and a director of the Walkersville Southern Railroad, wanted to update everyone that the railroad is healthy during it's 30th year. The railroad's normal schedule will resume this year and the Steam Locomotive will return May 22nd for three weekends. The Walkersville Southern Railroad is looking to restore the brick building across the street, currently being used as a museum. He thanked everyone for the support.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (unless changed/cancelled due to Gov. Hogan/CDC recommendations):

- Tues., May 25, 7:30 – Planning Meeting
- Weds., May 26, 7:30 – Town Meeting
- Mon., May 31 – Memorial Day – OFFICE CLOSED
- Tues., June 1, 7:30 – Board of Appeals (if needed)
- Weds., June 2, 7:30 – Parks Meeting
- Tues., June 8, 7:30 – Planning Workshop
- Weds., June 9, 7:30 – Town Meeting
- Tues., June 22, 7:30 – Planning Meeting
- Weds., June 23, 7:30 – Town Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Sean Williams, Town Manager